
News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Richmond area veterans to be served at multiple locations

RICHMOND—Veterans living in Richmond and the surrounding counties now have a choice of locations where they can meet with a veterans service representative for help with submitting claims for veterans benefits.

The Department of Veterans Services' (DVS) primary veterans service office in Richmond was located at 900 East Main Street in Richmond; however, this service officer will now be based at the Veterans Cemetery at Amelia, located at 10300 Pridesville Road in Amelia. Three and a half days a week, though, the service officer will be at other locations such as the Vet Center, 4902 Fitzhugh Avenue, and the office located at 900 East Main Street. Locations on Thursdays rotate and include sites in Powhatan, Saluda, Warsaw, and Hanover.

A detailed schedule of locations, addresses, and hours is available by calling (804) 561-1475 or by visiting www.virginiaforveterans.com and clicking the tab for Locate Your Benefits Services Office in the upper right area of the screen. The new schedule takes effect November 1, 2007.

The agency also has two veterans service representatives located at the McGuire VA Medical Center.

“This new schedule and the new locations take our services directly to the veterans,” explained DVS Commissioner Vince Burgess. “We know it’s difficult for some veterans to come downtown for assistance. But, veterans often visit the Vet Center. Also, by visiting our representative at the Veterans Cemetery in Amelia, veterans can complete the pre-application for

their burial benefits. In both cases, they can accomplish multiple tasks when they come in to visit our service representative.”

Veterans service representatives work one-on-one with veterans and their families helping them obtain benefits and entitlements on a local, state and federal level. Sandi Cipriani, the Richmond area veterans service representative, helps veterans apply for medical services, disability benefits due to disease or injury incurred during or aggravated by time-in-service, or disability benefits due to secondary medical conditions resulting from a service connection.

DVS representatives also assist with other types of claims, such as veterans compensation and pension claims, dependency and indemnity compensation for widows/widowers and children of disabled veterans, widows’ pensions, dependents’ education, veteran home loans and death benefit claims. In short, DVS veterans service representatives are advocates for veterans and their family members. They help veterans with their paperwork, track the claim with the VA, and represent veterans if they need to appeal a claim.

Statewide, the Department of Veterans Services operates 22 benefits offices where veterans can work with veterans service representatives. The agency operates two cemeteries for veterans: the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia and the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. A third cemetery in Dublin, Virginia is in the initial stages of development. The agency operates the Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC) in Roanoke. The VVCC is a long-term care facility offering nursing and domiciliary care for veterans. The Sitter-Barfoot Veterans Care Center, a 160-bed long-term care center located adjacent to the McGuire Veterans Medical Center, is slated to open in late 2007. The agency also certifies that post-secondary educational institutions meet G.I. Bill funding and eligibility requirements, enabling veterans and family members to pursue educational opportunities.

For more information about the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, visit www.virginiaforveterans.com. To reach the Richmond office, call (804) 561-1475.

**Virginia Department of Veterans Services
Richmond Benefit Services Office
Schedule and Locations**

DAY	LOCATION	HOURS
Monday	Amelia Veterans Cemetery 10300 Pridesville Road, Amelia	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday	Vet Center 4902 Fitzhugh Avenue, Richmond	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
	900 East Main St., Richmond	2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	900 East Main St., Richmond	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday (Locations alternate each week)		
1 st	2270 Mann Road, Powhatan	9 a.m. to noon
2 nd	170 Oaks Landing Road, Saluda	10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
3 rd	14234 History Land Road, Warsaw	10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
4 th	Hanover Health Department, 13212 Washington Highway, Ashland	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Friday	Amelia Veterans Cemetery	8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
	Vet Center	Noon to 4:30 p.m.